

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 16-18 remain in the application. Claims 1-15 and 19-23 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 16-18 have been amended.

2. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 16-18 are not anticipated by Sugita. (US 5,915,076). Sugita fails to disclose or suggest determining a target transmission spectrum of a printable ink layer of a desired color, as recited by claim 16.

Column 6, lines 12-17, and item 503 in Figure 1 of Sugita describe an input means that "inputs optical characteristic values of an image recording matter that is actually desired (S2)."

There is no disclosure related to determining optical characteristics of an image recording matter, only inputting an optical characteristic value. Furthermore, there is no disclosure related to determining a target transmission spectrum of a printable ink layer. Sugita only discloses that the input value is "the spectrum reflection intensity as one expression of color information."

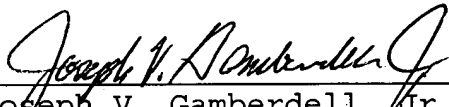
At least for these reasons, Applicant submits that independent claim 16 and dependent claims 17 and 18 are not anticipated by Sugita.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable

reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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29 June 2004
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